

lines 4-5, and has attributed the discussion at lines 4-5 to the operations of synthesizing an array. While Applicants do not want to foreclose the possibility that its claims would read on any of a variety of different assemblies (such as suggested by the Examiner), the context of the specific text at page 10, lines 4-5 appears to address a configuration used for screening of materials. It is noted that at page 10, line 1, the Specification discusses “[t]he electrochemical cell used to measure properties of the materials” (emphasis added). A review of the Example likewise indicates that the screening process is one that employs an electrochemical cell (see, page 10, lines 21 et seq). Accordingly, Applicants believe that the skilled artisan would readily be able to practice the subject matter claimed by Applicants, and thus the Examiner’s rejection is misplaced and should be withdrawn.

In short, it is respectfully submitted that no reference of record teaches or suggests Applicants’ unique combination of steps as recited in Applicant’s clearly stated claims, wherein a library can be rapidly created in parallel or serial repetitious steps (with the same or a different material) and the library is screened. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the present rejections and allow the case.

The actions taken are in the interest of expediting prosecution and with no intention of surrendering any range of equivalents to which Applicants would otherwise be entitled in view of the prior art.

Finally, the Examiner is reminded that Applicant previously cited commonly owned copending application Serial No. 08/941,170. Applicant assumes the Examiner has considered the same, and will proceed accordingly unless notified otherwise.

In short, Applicants believe that the claims as now amended are patentable. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejections and allowance of the pending claims.

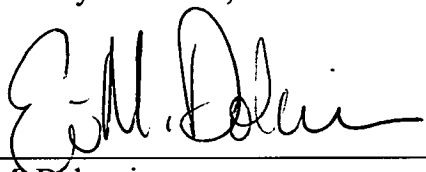
Conclusions

In view of Applicants' amendment and remarks, the Examiner's rejections are believed to be rendered moot. Accordingly, in view of the instant amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (248) 593-9900.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0496 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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